

Old Road to Bloomfield
Newark, New Jersey 07104
September 23, 1983

Mr. George Branch, Councilman
City Hall
920 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07104

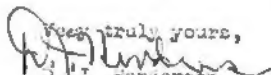
Dear Mr. Branch:-

This is written to say to you some things I could not say at the public hearing on September 21, 1983.

I remind you that the leaders of the group advocating a change in the name of High Street, are the same people who led a group that, a few weeks ago, insulted the Council by disrupting its meeting and insulted all decent citizens of Newark by refusing to stand during the playing of the National Anthem, the anthem of the only nation in the world where people are free to behave as they did without fear of getting their heads broken.

Those leaders know that any proposal to memorialize Dr. King would be sure-fire. They seized on this proposal not so much to honor him, but to use it as a cheap way to gain publicity and to demonstrate their power to manipulate and intimidate the Council, in spite of their earlier behavior. They succeeded admirably.

I have no personal feelings in this matter. I did not lose. The City of Newark lost, and, by falling for this sham (in the face of an appropriate alternative), the City Council forfeited a measure of its self-respect.

Very truly yours,

D.J. Henderson

CC: President and Members of the Council